

3 December 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Contact with John Pierson and Robert Keatley
of the Wall Street Journal

1. On 2 December I had lunch with Pierson and Keatley of the Wall Street Journal at the Hay-Adams at Pierson's initiative. Pierson's family is very close to my wife, his sister was my wife's roommate at college. I initially met Pierson at a dinner party on 26 November 1976 which was given for the President of Swarthmore College. Pierson subsequently asked me to lunch and said he would like to bring along a colleague, namely Keatley. Previous to the lunch I phoned [redacted] and got a reading on Keatley from him. STAT

2. It was clear as the lunch progressed that the sole purpose of this occasion was to introduce me to the China watcher of the Wall Street Journal, Keatley. They probed me on the attitudes of the new administration towards China to which I answered I did not know what these were. We did spend some time talking about the current situation in China in general terms. I gave them my views of what was happening inside China and they told me what they thought.

3. I told both men that my views were for deep background only and that no reference should be made to intelligence officers or even government officials. Also, as a matter of principle I did not talk about questions of policy. Both men seemed friendly enough, but I do not anticipate much contact with either.

[redacted]
James R. Lilley
National Intelligence Officer
for China STAT

Distribution:

Orig. - File
1 - Asst. to DCI
1 - D/DCI/NI
1 - NIO/CH

INTERNAL USE ONLY